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LAIRD ACCUSES  
MOSCOW OF DISRUPTING  
EFFORTS TO END M. E.  
WAR

MIDEAST--LAIRD :

WASHINGTON, OCT. 16, REUTER-- PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MELVIN LAIRD TODAY ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION OF DISRUPTING EFFORTS TO END THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.

LAIRD USED THE BLUNTEST LANGUAGE SO FAR BY A SENIOR NIXON ADMINISTRATION OFFICE TO CRITICIZE SOVIET ACTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE WAR BROKE OUT 10 DAYS AGO.

HE TOLD A GROUP OF REPORTERS: "THE ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN DISRUPTIVE AS FAR AS THE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CEASEFIRE AND AN IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT ARE CONCERNED."

LAIRD, FORMER DEFENCE SECRETARY AND NOW PRESIDENT NIXONS CHIEF DOMESTIC ADVISER, WAS APPARENTLY REFERING TO LARGE SUPPLIES OF ARMS AIRLIFTED BY THE SOVIET UNION TO EGYPT AND SYRIA SINCE THE WAR STARTED.

REUTER WRM/JL1936

A142